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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/17/2017	.	
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Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education (Stargel)  
recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Comprehensive study on middle school  
performance.-

(1) The Department of Education shall issue a competitive  
solicitation for a contract with private vendors to conduct a  
comprehensive study of states with high-performing students in



258976

10 grades 6 through 8 in reading and mathematics, based on the  
11 states' performance on the National Assessment of Educational  
12 Progress.

13 (2) The study must include a review of at least all of the  
14 following:

15 (a) Academic expectations and instructional strategies,  
16 including:

17 1. Alignment of elementary and middle grades expectations  
18 with high school graduation requirements;

19 2. Research-based instructional practices in reading and  
20 mathematics, including those targeting low-performing and high-  
21 performing students;

22 3. The rigor of the curriculum and courses and the  
23 availability of accelerated courses;

24 4. The availability of student support services;

25 5. The sequence of courses and the prerequisites required  
26 for advanced courses;

27 6. The availability of before- and after-school programs,  
28 and efforts to address the summer gap between school years,  
29 including related funding; and

30 7. The availability of other academic and noncore classes,  
31 and electives.

32 (b) Attendance policies and student mobility issues.

33 (c) Teacher quality, including:

34 1. Teacher certification and recertification requirements;

35 2. Teacher preparedness to teach rigorous courses;

36 3. Teacher preparation specific to teaching middle school  
37 students;

38 4. Teacher recruitment and vacancy issues;





258976

68 expiration; providing an effective date.

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70 WHEREAS, since 1998, Florida has seen a continuing trend of  
71 reading improvement in the elementary school grades, which has  
72 led to an increase of 17 percentage points in reading at or  
73 above proficiency for 4th grade students on the National  
74 Assessment of Educational Progress, while Florida's 8th grade  
75 students achieved only an increase of 7 percentage points, and

76 WHEREAS, since 2003, Florida's 4th grade students have  
77 demonstrated an increase of 11 percentage points in mathematics  
78 at or above proficiency on the national assessment, while  
79 Florida's 8th grade students have shown an increase of only 3  
80 percentage points, and

81 WHEREAS, since 2013, Florida's middle school students'  
82 proficiencies on the national assessment in both reading and  
83 mathematics have remained flat or decreased, and

84 WHEREAS, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont,  
85 Connecticut, and New Jersey are the top performing states in the  
86 percentage of 4th and 8th grade students scoring at or above  
87 proficiency in reading on the national assessment, and

88 WHEREAS, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New  
89 Jersey, and Washington are the top performing states in the  
90 percentage of 4th and 8th grade students scoring at or above  
91 proficiency in mathematics on the national assessment, and

92 WHEREAS, Florida's academic expectations for students in  
93 both reading and mathematics were raised in 2010 and 2014, and

94 WHEREAS, the performance of Florida's middle school  
95 students on the state assessments in reading has remained flat  
96 since the state's standards were raised, while their performance



258976

97 in mathematics increased slightly between 2015 and 2016, and  
98 WHEREAS, success in the middle school grades is a predictor  
99 of academic success in high school and college and career  
100 readiness, NOW, THEREFORE,